

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF FISH AND  
FISHERIES, FOR THE YEARS OF 1879-'80.

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BY S. G. WORTH, SUPERINTENDENT.

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*To His Excellency, THOMAS J. JARVIS, Governor and Ex-Officio  
Chairman of the Board of Agriculture, Immigration and Sta-  
tistics :*

SIR :—This report from your Sub-Department of Fish and Fisheries has for its subject the increase of food fishes, by artificial methods, in the inland waters of North Carolina, under the direction of your honorable Board of Agriculture. Its scope reaches over the years 1879 and 1880.

In order that the relations of this work toward the people of the State may be understood by all, it may not appear inappropriate to point out some of the general considerations which led to its establishment, and the general methods employed in prosecuting it.

It is a well known fact that fish have grown scarcer in our State for years. In many interior counties formerly visited by shoals of fishes in large numbers, they have almost, in some cases entirely, disappeared. Citizens of these counties now depend upon the purchase of fish brought by rail, or else follow the more usual rule and go without. The migratory fishes no longer appear. Though the surface of our State is a great net-work of streams, and in them are found naturally abundant supplies, it is equally true that the supply is never equal to the demand. With the destructive agencies removed they would soon be plentiful, but the agencies are being multiplied and it is conceded by all that their numbers are annually diminishing. This falling off is an outgrowth of our civilization and results first from cutting them off from favorite spawning grounds with dams,